

IN THE CLAIMS:

Page 13, before Claim 1, ~~Claims~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Please amend claims 1-13 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a silicon containing transition metal catalyst compound, said process comprising the steps of
- (a) non-hydrolytic sol-gel condensation of a silane of formula



wherein L is a π -bonded ligand,
 Q is an anionic ligand, and
 $x + n = 4$

with an halogenated silane (or siloxane) and an alkoxysilane,

(b) optionally alkylation,

(c) deprotonation, and

(d) addition of a transition metal compound.

2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein L is a cyclopentadienyl, indenyl or fluorenyl ligand.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein x is 2 and Q is halogen.

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the transition metal compound is a Group IV A metal halide.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the Group IV A metal is zirconium.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a silicon containing transition metal catalyst compound, said process comprising the steps of
(a) non-hydrolytic sol-gel condensation of a silane of formula



wherein L is a π -bonded ligand,
Q is an anionic ligand, and
 $x + n = 4$

with an halogenated silane (or siloxane) and an alkoxysilane,

(b) alkylation, and

(c) addition of a transition metal amine.

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the transition metal amine is $Zr(NMe_2)_4$.

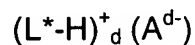
8. (Currently Amended) A polymerisation catalyst system comprising
(a) a silicon containing transition metal catalyst compound prepared according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, and (b) a cocatalyst.

9. (Currently Amended) A process for the polymerisation of olefin monomers selected from (a) ethylene, (b) propylene (c) mixtures of ethylene and propylene and (d) mixtures of (a), (b) or (c) with one or more other alpha-olefins, said process being performed in the presence of a silicon containing transition metal catalyst compound prepared according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, and (b) cocatalyst.

10. (Currently Amended) A process for the polymerisation of ethylene or the copolymerization of ethylene and α -olefins having from 3 to 10 carbon atoms, said process being carried out in the presence of a (a) a silicon containing transition metal catalyst compound prepared according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, and (b) a cocatalyst.

11. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claims~~ claim 9 or 10, wherein the cocatalyst is an aluminoxane.

12. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the cocatalyst has the formula:



wherein

L^* is a neutral Lewis base

$(L^*-H)^+_d$ is a Bronsted acid

A^{d-} is a non-coordinating compatible anion having a charge of d^- , and

d is an integer from 1 to 3.

13. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 9 to
42 ~~or 10~~, carried out in the gas phase.